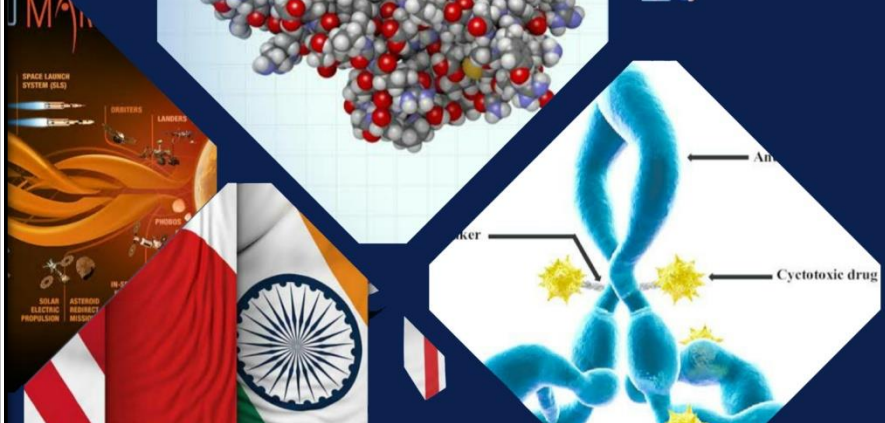



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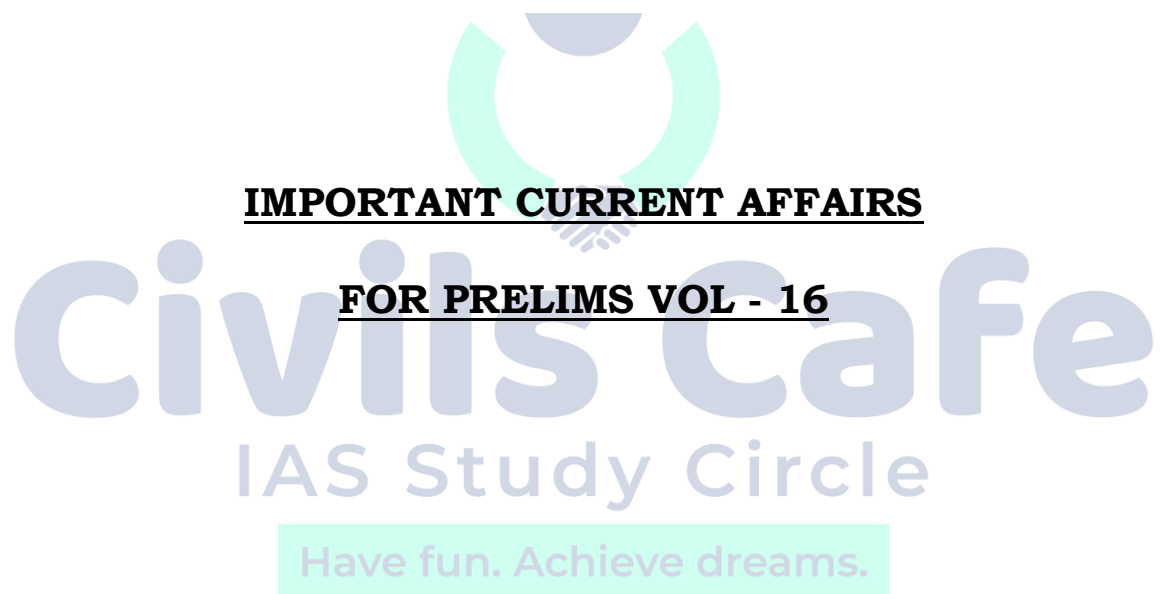
IMPORTANT CURRENT AFFAIRS FOR PRELIMS VOL 16

- NATIONAL URBAN DIGITAL MISSION
- CANADIAN HYDROGEN INTENSITY MAPPING EXPERIMENT
- BIOLOGIC AND TOXIC WEAPONS CONVENTION 1972
- G7 SUMMIT - BUILD BACK BETTER
- PROJECT BOLD



SCAN TO EXPLORE





IMPORTANT CURRENT AFFAIRS

FOR PRELIMS VOL - 16

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INTERNAL SECURITY**1) BIOLOGIC AND TOXIC WEAPONS CONVENTION 1972**

IN NEWS: -The Covid-19 pandemic has exposed the vulnerability of several world powers in the event of use of biological weapons against them by rogue states and terrorist groups.

ABOUT BIOLOGIC AND TOXIC WEAPONS CONVENTION 1972

- The Biological Weapons Convention (BWC), or Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC), is a disarmament treaty that effectively bans biological and toxin weapons by prohibiting their development, production, acquisition, transfer, stockpiling and use
- The Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) is a legally binding treaty that outlaws biological arms.
- The BWC is the first multilateral disarmament treaty to ban an entire category of weapons of mass destruction.
- The BWC opened for signature in 1972, and entered into force in 1975.
- It currently has 183 states-parties, including Palestine, and four signatories. Ten states have neither signed nor ratified the BWC
- India ratified and pledged to abide by its obligations in 2015.

PRACTICE QUESTION

With reference to Biologic and Toxic Weapons convention, consider the following statements

1. India has not ratified the convention
2. It is not legally binding in nature

Which among the above statements are correct?

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only
- c. Both 1 and 2
- d. Neither 1 or 2

Answer: - d

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

2) CANADIAN HYDROGEN INTENSITY MAPPING EXPERIMENT

IN NEWS: - Scientists with the Canadian Hydrogen Intensity Mapping Experiment (CHIME) Collaboration have assembled the largest collection of fast radio bursts (FRBs) in the telescope's first FRB catalogue. While catching sight of an FRB is considered a rare thing in the field of radio astronomy, prior to the CHIME project, radio astronomers had only caught sight of around 140 bursts in their scopes since the first FRB was spotted in 2007

ABOUT CHIME

- It is a novel radio telescope that has no moving parts. Originally conceived to map the most abundant element in the universe - hydrogen - over a good fraction of the observable universe, this unusual telescope is optimized to have a high mapping speed.
- It is located at the Dominion Radio Astrophysical Observatory, operated by the National Research Council of Canada in British Columbia, Canada.
- The telescope receives radio signals each day from half of the sky as the Earth rotates.

ABOUT FAST RADIO BURSTS

- FRBs are oddly bright flashes of light, registering in the radio band of the electromagnetic spectrum, which blaze for a few milliseconds before vanishing without a trace.
- These brief and mysterious beacons have been spotted in various and distant parts of the universe, as well as in our own galaxy.
- Their origins are unknown and their appearance is highly unpredictable.

PRACTICE QUESTION

With reference to Fast Radio Bursts, consider the following statements

1. The origins of Fast Radio Bursts were found out by NASA
2. These have been spotted in our galaxy

Which among the above statements are correct?

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only
- c. Both 1 and 2
- d. Neither 1 or 2

Answer: - b

GOVERNANCE

3) NATIONAL URBAN DIGITAL MISSION

IN NEWS: - The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has launched the National Urban Digital Mission (NUDM) for transforming urban governance.

ABOUT NATIONAL URBAN DIGITAL MISSION

- The National Urban Digital Mission (NUDM) will create a shared digital infrastructure for urban India, working across the three pillars of people, process, and platform to provide holistic support to cities and towns.

- It will institutionalise a citizen-centric and ecosystem-driven approach to urban governance and service delivery in 2022 cities by 2022, and across all cities and towns in India by 2024.
- The shared digital infrastructure will consolidate and cross-leverage the various digital initiatives of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, enabling cities and towns across India to benefit from holistic and diverse forms of support, in keeping with their needs and local challenges.
- NUDM has articulated a set of governing principles, and inherits the technology design principles of the **National Urban Innovation Stack (NUIS)**.

PRACTICE QUESTION

With reference to the National Urban Digital Mission (NUDM) , consider the following statements

1. The National Urban Digital Mission inherits the technology design principles of the National Urban Innovation Stack
2. It will institutionalise a citizen-centric and ecosystem-driven approach to urban governance and service delivery in 2022 cities by 2022, and across all cities and towns in India by 2030.

Which among the above statements are correct?

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only
- c. Both 1 and 2 only
- d. Neither 1 or 2

Answer: - a

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**4) G7 SUMMIT -BUILD BACK BETTER**

IN NEWS: - The G7 (Group of Seven) Countries proposed a 'Build Back Better World (B3W) initiative' at the recent 47th G7 summit to counter China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

ABOUT B3W INITIATIVE

- It aims to address the infrastructure investment deficit in developing and lower income countries which is being increasingly captured by China through 2,600 BRI projects
- This infrastructure plan is being led by the United States.
- B3W initiative will provide a transparent infrastructure partnership to help narrow about \$40 trillion needed by developing nations by 2035.
- It calls for spending hundreds of billions of dollars in collaboration with the private sector while adhering to climate standards and labour practices.

ABOUT G7

- It is an intergovernmental organisation that was formed in 1975.
- The bloc meets annually to discuss issues of common interest like global economic governance, international security and energy policy.
- The G7 countries are the UK, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the US.
- All the G7 countries and India are a part of G20.
- The G7 does not have a formal constitution or a fixed headquarters. The decisions taken by leaders during annual summits are non-binding.

ABOUT BELT AND ROAD INITIATIVE

- It was launched in 2013.

- It is a multi-billion-dollar initiative that aims to link Southeast Asia, Central Asia, the Gulf region, Africa and Europe with a network of land and sea routes.
- It involves development and investment initiatives that would stretch from Asia to Europe and beyond.
- More than 100 countries have signed agreements with China to cooperate in BRI projects like railways, ports, highways and other infrastructure.

5) MEKONG GANGA COOPERATION

IN NEWS:

India is seeking a multi-dimensional engagement with the Mekong region considering its great importance, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on Wednesday.

In an address at the 11th Mekong-Ganga Cooperation (MGC) meeting,

Mr. Jaishankar also called for a "collective and collaborative" response to effectively deal with coronavirus pandemic, saying the virus does not respect national boundaries.

ABOUT MEKONG GANGA COOPERATION

- The Mekong–Ganga Cooperation (MGC) was established on November 10, 2000, at Vientiane, Laos
- It comprises six member countries, namely India, Thailand, Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam.
- The four areas of cooperation are tourism, culture, education, and transportation.
- The organization takes its name from the Ganga and the Mekong, two large rivers in the region

PRACTICE QUESTION

With reference to Build Back Better initiative, consider the following statements;

1. Build Back Better initiative will provide a transparent infrastructure partnership to help narrow about \$40 trillion needed by developing nations by 2035.
2. It is led by the World Bank

Which among the above statements are correct?

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only
- c. Both 1 and 2
- d. Neither 1 or 2

Answer: - a

ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGY**6) PROJECT BOLD**

IN NEWS: - Recently, the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) launched a project named Bamboo Oasis on Lands in Drought (BOLD) from the village NichlaMandwa in Udaipur, Rajasthan.

ABOUT PROJECT BOLD

- Project BOLD seeks to create bamboo-based green patches in arid and semi-arid land zones.
- It is a unique scientific exercise serving the combined national objectives of reducing desertification and providing livelihood and multi-disciplinary rural industry support.

- 5000 saplings of special bamboo species: Bambusa-Tulda and Bambusa-Polymorpha specially brought from Assam – have been planted over 25 bigha (16 acres approx) of vacant arid Gram Panchayat land.
- KVIC has thus created a world record of planting the highest number of bamboo saplings on a single day at one location

REASON FOR CHOOSING BAMBOO

- KVIC has judiciously chosen bamboo for developing green patches.
- Bamboos grow very fast and in about three years' time, they could be harvested.
- Bamboos are also known for conserving water and reducing evaporation of water from the land surface, which is an important feature in arid and drought-prone regions.

ABOUT KVIC

- It is a statutory body established under the Khadi and Village Industries Commission Act, 1956.
- It is charged with the planning, promotion, organisation and implementation of programmes for the development of Khadi and other village industries in the rural areas in coordination with other agencies engaged in rural development wherever necessary.
- It functions under the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.

PRACTICE QUESTION

Consider the following statements

1. Project BOLD was launched by the Ministry of Social Justice
2. It is a unique scientific exercise serving the combined national objectives of reducing desertification and providing livelihood and multi-disciplinary rural industry support.

Which among the above statements are correct?

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only
- c. Both 1 and 2
- d. Neither 1 or 2

Answer: - b

INDIAN POLITY

7) KRISHNA GODAVARI DISPUTE

IN NEWS: - Recently, the Andhra Pradesh government moved to the Supreme Court against Telangana for Krishna River water.

ABOUT KRISHNA GODAVARI DISPUTE

Set up of Krishna Water Dispute Tribunal (KWDT):

- In 1969, Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal was set up under the Inter-State River Water Dispute Act, 1956. It was headed by Justice R.S. Bachawat,
- It was constituted in April 1969 for adjudication of inter-state water dispute regarding the sharing of Krishna waters.
- It presented its report in 1973 which was published in 1976.
- It divided the 2060 TMC (thousand million cubic feet) of Krishna water at 75 per cent dependability into three parts: 560 TMC for Maharashtra, 700 TMC for Karnataka and 800 TMC for Andhra Pradesh.
- At the same time, it was stipulated that the KWDT order may be reviewed or revised by a competent authority or tribunal any time after May 31, 2000.
- The KWDT addressed three issues:
 - the extent to which the existing uses should be protected as opposed to future or contemplated uses;

- diversion of water to another watershed; and
- rules governing the preferential uses of water. The tribunal relied on the principle of equitable apportionment for allocation of water.

New Grievances and KWDT 2 set up

- Afterward, as new grievances arose between the states, the second KWDT was instituted in 2004.
- It delivered its report in 2010, which made allocations of the Krishna water at 65 per cent dependability and for surplus flows as follows: 81 TMC for Maharashtra, 177 TMC for Karnataka, and 190 TMC for Andhra Pradesh.
- In 2010, Andhra Pradesh challenged the order in the Supreme Court through a Special Leave Petition (SLP).

Another Report by KWD

In 2013, the KWDT issued a 'further report', which was again challenged by Andhra Pradesh in the Supreme Court in 2014.

Changed Allocation

- After the bifurcation of the erstwhile State of Andhra Pradesh in 2014 into the States of Andhra Pradesh & Telangana, arrangements were changed.
- It was agreed between the two states that the 811 TMC allocation made by the KWDT-I would be apportioned in a manner wherein the State of Telangana will have 299 TMC while the State of Andhra Pradesh will get 512 TMC.
- This agreement (2015 Agreement) was entered before and is monitored by KRMB.

Krishna River Management Board

- In exercise of the powers conferred under section 85 of the Andhra Pradesh Reorganization Act, 2014, the Central Government constituted KRMB for

the administration, regulation, maintenance and operation of such projects, as may be notified by the Central Government from time to time.

Present

The present petition arises out of the allegation against the State of Telangana of indiscriminately drawing water for power uses contrary to the rules of the integrated operation of the Reservoirs and the provisions of the 2015 Agreement.

MISCELLANEOUS

8) SUJAL MISSION

IN NEWS: - Odisha government has declared Puri as the first city in the country to have city-wide safe drinking tap water that can be used directly for drinking and cooking without further filtration or boiling.

ABOUT SUJAL MISSION

- The Sujal Mission was launched on October 13 last year to ensure quality tapped drinking water for more than 1.5 million people in more than 15 urban areas.
- It includes a 24/7 helpline centre with IVRS for grievance redressal, a mobile water testing laboratory and a quick response team for rapid redressal of water supply complaints
- Under Drink from Tap-Sujal Mission, people of Puri will be able to fetch water directly from the tap to drink. There is no need for storage or a filter. Tap water will be available 24×7.
- The move will now eliminate the usage of 3 crore plastic water bottles. This would mean the city will now be free from nearly 400 tonnes of plastic waste

MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL & MEDIUM ENTERPRISES**➤ Atmanirbhar Bharat Initiatives****❖ Distressed Assets Fund -Subordinate Debt for stressed MSMEs- Credit Guarantee Scheme- Subordinate Debt (CGSSD)**

- Fund of Funds Scheme for MSMEs: Self Reliant India (SRI) FUND
- SRI Fund is a Category-II Alternative Investment Fund registered with SEBI with Mother Fund / Daughter Fund structure
- The Government of India is the sole anchor investor with the initial budgetary support of Rs. 10,000 crores to the mother fund in phased manner.
- For anchoring the Mother Fund, NSIC Venture Capital Fund Limited (NVCFL), subsidiary of The National Small Industries Corporation Limited (NSIC) has been incorporated under the Companies Act 2013.
- NVCFL has been registered as a Category II Alternative Investment Fund.
- Aims to provide funding support to the MSMEs through the Daughter Funds, as growth capital in the form of equity or quasi-equity, for enhancing equity / equity like financing to MSMEs, listing of MSMEs on Stock Exchanges and supporting faster growth of MSME Businesses and thereby ignite the economy and create employment opportunities.

➤ Udyam Registration (UR) Portal

- It provides faceless, fully online, paperless and transparent MSME registration process fully integrated with Income Tax and GSTIN systems.
- The Government has included Street Vendors, Retail and Wholesale trades as MSMEs. They are allowed to be registered on Udyam Registration Portal. Benefits to them are restricted to Priority Sector Lending only.

➤ **MSME CHAMPIONS**

- CHAMPIONS stands for **Creation and Harmonious Application of Modern Processes for Increasing the Output and National Strength.**
- To help the MSMEs in the difficult situation in terms of finance, raw materials, labour, permissions, etc.
- To help the MSMEs capture new opportunities in manufacturing and services sectors.
- To identify the sparks, i.e., the bright MSMEs who can withstand at present and become national and international champions.

➤ **Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP)**

- PMEGP is a major credit-linked subsidy programme aimed at generating self-employment opportunities through establishment of micro- enterprises in the non-farm sector by assisting traditional artisans and unemployed youth in rural as well as urban areas.
- Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) is the nodal agency at the national level.
- At the State/district level, State offices of KVIC, Coir Board, KVIBs and District Industry Centers (DIC) are the implementing agencies.
- Any individual above 18 years of age, Self Help Groups, Institutions registered under Societies Registration Act 1860, Production Co-operative Societies and Charitable Trusts are eligible.

- Existing Units and the units that have already availed Government Subsidy under any other scheme of Government of India or State Government are not eligible.
- Only new projects are considered for sanction under PMEGP.

➤ **Interest Subvention Scheme for MSMEs**

- The Scheme aims at encouraging both manufacturing and service enterprises to increase productivity and provides incentives to MSMEs for on boarding on GST platform which helps in formalization of economy, while reducing the cost of credit.
- Interest Subvention Scheme for Incremental Credit to MSMEs was introduced by the Reserve Bank of India wherein relief is provided upto 2% of interest to all the legal MSMEs on their outstanding fresh/incremental term loan/working capital during the period of its validity.

➤ **Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries**

(SFURTI): It aims to properly organize the artisans and the traditional industries into clusters and thus provide financial assistance to make them competitive in today's market scenario

➤ **Cluster Development Programme (MSE-CDP):** It aims to enhance the productivity and competitiveness as well as capacity building of MSMEs.

➤ **MSME SAMBANDH:** It is a Public Procurement Portal. It was launched to monitor the implementation of the Public Procurement from MSMEs by Central Public Sector Enterprises.

➤ **MSME Samadhan portal:** It enables them to directly register their cases about delayed payments by Central Ministries/Departments/CPSEs/State Governments.

➤ **ASPIRE scheme**

- A scheme for Promotion of Innovation, Rural Industry and Entrepreneurship (ASPIRE) aims to set up a network of technology centres and to set up incubation centres to accelerate entrepreneurship and also to promote startups for innovation and entrepreneurship in agro-industry.

➤ **Zero Defect Zero Effect**

- Under Zero Defect Zero Effect (ZED) launched in 2016, with two objectives of promotion of production mechanism wherein the products have no defects and the impact on environment is zero.



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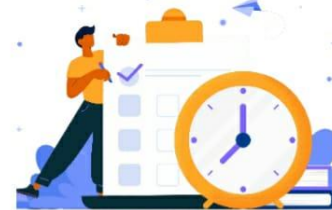
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